CLAIMS:

1.   A digital content distribution method to distribute digital content via a network, comprising the steps of:

instructing distribution of digital contents according to a distribution schedule;

distributing digital contents according to the distribution schedule indicated; and

selling a particular digital content selected from the digital contents distributed.

2.   A digital content distribution method to distribute digital content via a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving identifying information of a particular digital content selected by a customer;

transmitting a distribution request for the digital content selected by the customer;

distributing the digital content requested for distribution; and

selling the digital content distributed.

3.   A digital content distribution method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating a digital content by digitizing an original book and requesting confirmation of contents thereof and indicating accumulation of the digital content recognized;

displaying the contents of the digital content for which confirmation of the contents has been requested

and transmitting a message to indicate whether or not the contents thereof are to be recognized; and

receiving and accumulating the digital content indicated.

4.   A digital content distribution method to distribute digital content via a network, comprising the steps of:

collecting sales information of digital contents sold; and

calculating a license fee of each digital content according to the sales information collected and remitting the fee to a content holder of the digital content.

5.   A digital content distribution method to distribute digital content via a network, comprising the steps of:

instructing distribution of digital contents according to a distribution schedule to a distribution management device;

distributing digital contents to a vending device according to the distribution schedule indicated by a content database device; and

selling a particular digital content selected from the digital contents distributed from the distribution management device.

6.   A digital content distribution method to distribute digital content via a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving identifying information of a particular

digital content selected by a customer,

transmitting a distribution request for the digital content selected by the customer to a distribution management device;

relaying a distribution request from a vending device to a content database device and distributing the digital sent from the content database device according to the distribution request to the vending device;

receiving the distribution request relayed from the distribution management device and transmitting the digital content requested for distribution to the distribution management device; and

selling the digital content distributed from the distribution management device.

7.   A digital content distribution method in accordance with claim 5, further including the steps of:

generating a digital content by digitizing an original book;

requesting a recognition device for confirmation of contents thereof, receiving from the recognition device a message indicating whether or not the contents of the digital content are to be recognized, and indicating accumulation of the digital content recognized to a content database device;

displaying the contents of the digital content for which confirmation of the contents has been requested from the digitizing device and transmitting a message to indicate whether or not the contents thereof are to be

recognized to the digitizing device; and

receiving and accumulating the digital content generated by the digitizing device.

8.   A digital content distribution method to distribute digital content via a network, comprising the steps of:

collecting sales information of digital contents sold by a vending device and sending the sales information to a distribution management device;

relaying the sales information sent from the vending device to a content database device; and

calculating a license fee of each digital content according to the sales information relayed from the content database device and remitting the fee to a content holder of the digital content.

9.   A digital content distribution system to distribute digital content via a network, comprising:

a distribution control section for instructing distribution of digital contents according to a distribution schedule;

a distribution section for distributing digital contents according to the distribution schedule indicated; and

a sales section for selling a particular digital content selected from the digital contents distributed.

10.   A digital content distribution system to distribute digital content via a network, comprising:

a selecting section for receiving identifying

information of a particular digital content selected by a customer;

a distribution requesting section for transmitting a distribution request for the digital content selected by the customer;

a requested content distributing section for distributing the digital content requested for distribution; and

a sales section for selling the digital content distributed.

11.   A digital content distribution system to distribute digital content via a network, comprising:

a processing section for collecting sales information for collecting sales information of digital contents sold; and

a license fee section for calculating a license fee of each digital content according to the sales information collected and remitting the fee to a content holder of the digital content.

12.   A digital content distribution system to distribute digital content via a network, comprising:

a distribution control section for indicating distribution of digital contents according to a distribution schedule to a distribution management device;

a distributing section for distributing digital contents to a vending device according to the distribution schedule indicated by a content database device; and

a sales section for selling a particular digital

content selected from the digital contents distributed from the distribution management device.

13.   A digital content distribution system to distribute digital content via a network, comprising:

a selecting section for receiving identifying information of a particular digital content selected by a customer;

a distribution requesting section for transmitting a distribution request for the digital content selected by the customer to a distribution management device;

a distribution request relay section for relaying a distribution request from a vending device to a content database device and distributing the digital sent from the content database device according to the distribution request to the vending device;

a requested content distribution section for receiving the distribution request relayed from the distribution management device and transmitting the digital content requested for distribution to the distribution management device; and

a sales section for selling the digital content distributed from the distribution management device.

14.   A digital content distribution system to distribute digital content via a network, comprising:

a processing section for receiving distributed content for collecting sales information of digital contents sold by a vending device and sending the sales

information to a distribution management device;

a processing section for relaying distributed content for relaying the sales information sent from the vending device to a content database device; and

a license section for calculating a license fee of each digital content according to the sales information relayed from the content database device and remitting the fee to a content holder of the digital content.

16. A medium on which a program which makes a computer function as a digital content distribution system to distribute digital content via a network is recorded, wherein said program comprises:

a distribution control section for indicating distribution of digital contents according to a distribution schedule;

a distribution section for distributing digital contents to according to the distribution schedule indicated; and

a sales section for selling a particular digital content selected from the digital contents distributed.

16. A medium on which a program which makes a computer function as a digital content distribution system to distribute digital content via a network is recorded, wherein said program comprises:

a selecting section for receiving identifying information of a particular digital content selected by a customer;

a distribution requesting section for transmit-

ting a distribution request for the digital content

selected by the customer;

a requested content distributing section for

distributing the digital content requested for distribu-

tion; and

a sales section for selling the digital content

distributed.

17.   A medium on which a program which makes a

computer function as a digital content distribution system

to distribute digital content via a network is recorded,

wherein said program comprises:

a processing section for collecting sales

information for collecting sales information of digital

contents sold; and

a license fee section for calculating a license

fee of each digital content according to the sales informa-

tion collected and remitting the fee to a content holder of

the digital content.

18.   A medium on which a program which makes a

computer function as a digital content distribution system

to distribute digital content via a network is recorded,

wherein said program comprises:

a distribution control section for indicating

distribution of digital contents according to a distribu-

tion schedule to a distribution management device;

a distributing section for distributing digital

contents to a vending device according to the distribution

schedule indicated by a content database device; and

a sales section for selling a particular digital content selected from the digital contents distributed from the distribution management device.

19.   A medium on which a program which makes a computer function as a digital content distribution system to distribute digital content via a network is recorded, wherein said program comprises:

a selecting section for receiving identifying information of a particular digital content selected by a customer;

a distribution requesting section for transmitting a distribution request for the digital content selected by the customer to a distribution management device;

a distribution request relay section for relaying a distribution request from a vending device to a content database device and distributing the digital sent from the content database device according to the distribution request to the vending device;

a requested content distribution section for receiving the distribution request relayed from the distribution management device and transmitting the digital content requested for distribution to the distribution management device; and

a sales section for selling the digital content distributed from the distribution management device.

20.   A medium on which a program which makes a computer function as a digital content distribution system

to distribute digital content via a network is recorded, wherein said program comprises:

a processing section for receiving distributed content for collecting sales information of digital contents sold by a vending device and sending the sales information to a distribution management device;

a processing section for relaying distributed content for relaying the sales information sent from the vending device to a content database device; and

a license section for calculating a license fee of each digital content according to the sales information relayed from the content database device and remitting the fee to a content holder of the digital content.

21. A program file which makes a computer function as a digital content distribution system to distribute digital content via a network is recorded, wherein said program file on a medium comprises:

a distribution control section for indicating distribution of digital contents according to a distribution schedule;

a distribution section for distributing digital contents to according to the distribution schedule indicated; and

a sales section for selling a particular digital content selected from the digital contents distributed.